



Media release

24 October 2011

Local resilience forum urges residents to buy heating oil early for winter

Bedfordshire and Luton Local Resilience Forum is urging residents to prepare for winter by placing early orders for heating oil and avoiding the kind of disruptions faced by many following last winter's prolonged cold weather .

The elderly and those in rural communities are most at risk of suffering if heating oil supplies exceed demand, or if deliveries are disrupted by snow and ice on the road.

BLLRF is promoting the buy oil early campaign on its @what_would Twitter feed, and [facebook.com/whatwouldyoudoif](https://www.facebook.com/whatwouldyoudoif) page and has also launched a media campaign.

BLLRF Chair and Bedfordshire Police Assistant Chief Constable, Katherine Govier, said: "This Government – backed campaign ensures vulnerable residents don't suffer should there be fuel disruptions or excessive fuel demand which cannot be met. We understand that in a recession it might be difficult to buy in advance, but the price of oil is actually lower now and demand is not as high as it will be in the run up to Christmas.

"As a local resilience forum BLLRF is responsible for preparing residents for emergencies and so we actively encourage residents to stock up on their heating oil before the cold weather takes hold.

"Unfortunately there have been some incidents of oil thefts in the county. We therefore strongly advise you, whether you place an early order or not, to store your oil in a safe, secure location. It would be advisable to store your tank out of sight or away from the roadside and install security lighting in the storage area. A lockable steel tap cap (similar to those fitted on padlocks on gates) will also help secure your oil tank."

Commenting on the initiative, Energy Minister Charles Hendry said: "I welcome this campaign by consumer groups and industry to encourage heating oil consumers to stock up early this winter.

"The early snow last December shows that it is better to stock up before the winter, when suppliers have spare delivery capacity and prices are likely to be lower than when demand is higher.

“Clearly, leaving orders to the last minute risks longer delivery times, especially if cold weather increases demand and disrupts transport making deliveries difficult.”

For more information about emergency planning advice go to <http://www.whatwouldyoudoif.co.uk/>

Residents can receive updates and also share their own emergency planning advice on

http://twitter.com/#!/what_would and <http://www.facebook.com/whatwouldyoudoif>

Ends

Notes to editors:

For media inquiries, please contact Satnam Wahiwala at Athene Communications on 01733 207340,

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1. BLLRF was formed in 2004, bringing together the key agencies required to respond to emergencies.

Comprising local agencies including the emergency services, local authorities, National Health Service (NHS) and the voluntary and community sector, the forum was created to ensure the best possible plans are in place should a major emergency occur.

BLLRF’s vision is to make Bedfordshire and Luton the best-prepared place for any emergency. Through the ‘*What would you do if...?*’ campaign, the forum aims to promote the importance of being prepared and ensure people living and working within the county feel safe. For more information visit www.whatwouldyoudoif.co.uk

2. Bedfordshire residents are most at risk of the following emergencies:

- [Flu pandemic](#)
- [Major river flooding](#)
- Low temperatures or heavy snow
- [Transport accident involving fuel or explosives](#)
- [Fuel supply disruption](#)

Sign up as an emergency volunteer by joining the Bedfordshire and Luton Emergency Volunteers Executive Committee (BLEVEC). This is a local partnership of charities, community groups and

volunteers who work together as part of BLLRF to prepare for, and respond to emergencies. For more information please email membership@bllrf.org.uk or call us on 07716 744923.